COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Liberal Holiday Policy Insures Leave for Most

A liberal leave policy for the coming Christmas Holiday season will extend from Dec. 17 through Jan. 2 to insure that most servicemen have an opportunity for leave over one of the two holidays during the period, the Defense Department announced.

The policy announced Nov. 18 applies to all four services, including overseas where the military mission permits. The sole exception is in Vietnam where operations preclude a normal holiday leave policy.

DOD policy also enjoined military commanders to schedule individual leaves during non-peak travel periods so that servicemen would have greater opportunity to make satisfactory travel arrangements.

The announcement about Christmas leave also covered DOD's early release program. It will "permit the early separation of those personnel whose normal release from active duty dates would otherwise occur between mid-December and January 2, 1967." These releases would be timed for the serviceman to be home for Christmas.

"It is anticipated that these early separations will be accomplished generally about one to two weeks earlier than the normal separation date," the announcement said.

Army Directive Lifts Some Signal Corps Restrictions

Army has directed that all Communications Officer positions in non-signal units be filled by Signal Corps officers and has temporarily suspended restrictions for certain officers who desire to transfer into the corps.

Provisions of AR 614-100 which generally restrict branch transfer for those with less than two years service are suspended for active duty MOS 0200 school graduates, and for those who have performed duty in an assignment for which the MOS was awarded.

Officers meeting criteria who desire transfer to Signal Corps are encouraged to submit application under provisions of para 12b, AR 614-100.

All requests will be reviewed on individual basis by Army. Effective date of approved transfers will be coordinated between gaining and losing career branches to avoid impact on current military operations.

USAF VICE CHIEF DECORATED—Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, USAF vice chief, is made an honorary member of the Royal Thai Air Force as the decoration is pinned on his blouse by Air Chief Marshal Boon Choo Chandrubeksa, following Gen. Holloway's arrival at Bangkok. He spent three days visiting upcountry installations in Thailand.

CNO Calls War Zone Troops 'Truly Magnificent Men'

Adm. David L. McDonald, just back from a tour of South Vietnam, said the thing that impressed him most was people. "Truly magnificent men," he said.

And the admiral revealed that Navy air crews are now flying UH-1B "Huey" gunship missions.

"In a large operation recently, three helos from Navy Helicopter Squadron One sank 23 enemy sampans and destroyed 25 structures."

The Chief of Naval Operations, who last visited Vietnam 13 months ago, told a Pentagon news conference about some new activity he observed in the rice-rich Mekong Delta in the south:

"Since Operation Game Warden started seven months ago, we have gone from essentially nothing in the Delta area to 114 PBRs (river patrol boats) in the country and over 1,200 Navy personnel in that area, operating and supporting the boats."

The CNO also visited Marine Corps units in the Da Nang area and said he found Leathernecks highly appreciative of naval gunfire support.

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LONGEST GUN RECORD claimed by Army researchers working on the 120-foot long High Altitude Research Projective (HARP) gun. Rounds were fired to an altitude of 103 miles, a world record for gun-fired projectiles. Army officials at the Yuma, Ariz., Proving Ground said the shells left a chemical trail of light in the sky visible 300 miles away.

NAVY MEN ASHORE in South Vietnam number more than 22,000, some 6,000 of them Seabees at work on airfields and base facilities. Another 3,000 consist of doctors, dentists, chaplains and hospital corpsmen serving with the Marine Corps.

JOINT AIR RESCUE activities by Navy and Air Force in waters off North Vietnam have resulted in picking up 229 downed pilots from the Tonkin Gulf. Joint effort involves Navy ships and helicopters teamed with AF helicopters and amphibious planes. Officials point out this is an important activity that often goes unsung.

AMERICAN RED CROSS will have increased its Vietnam staff by 250 percent before the year is out. ARC said 105 field workers were in Vietnam as of January 1966 and 275 are expected to be there by January 1967.

WEST POINT EXCHANGE program inaugurated by the U.S. Military Academy with selected Latin American military academies. Program, which begins in 1967, follows on the heels of a successful but experimental exchange program this summer. In July and August, 28 USMA cadets, traveling in pairs, visited 14 Latin American military academies. In September, 28 cadets from Central and South America visited West Point.

NASA MARS EXPERIMENT failed in early November, as parachute ejection system did not eject and soft-land its 200-pound experimental package. White Sands officials traced fault to a ground signal that failed to trigger parachute ejection system. All other phases worked as programmed. NASA officials stressed this is only first of 10 similar tests to study different parachute designs for possible use in proposed Voyager program to explore planets.

ARPA HAS APPOINTED Seymour J. Deitchman, 43, former Institute of Defense analyses counterinsurgency expert, as director of remote area conflict. His responsibility in the Advance Research Projects Agency encompasses all phases of counterinsurgency research, including communications, mobility, systems analysis and behavioral studies. Mr. Deitchman succeeds Maj Gen. C. J. Timmes, who is being reassigned by Army.

TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL Guard's 118th Military Airlift Group has completed an airlift of three solid rocket motors from Arizona to the Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold AFS, Tenn., for savings to the Air Force of about $56,000. The Guard delivery prevented a costly two-week delay in testing for the F-111 crew escape module, Brig. Gen. Lee V. Gossick, commander of the center, said.

NEWLY APPOINTED Director of Air Force Aid Society is Maj. Gen. Reginald C. Harmon, USAF (ret.), succeeding Maj. Gen. Howard C. Davidson, USAF (ret.), who has retired after more than 20 years as Society's director and member of board of trustees.

DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE members at Air Force bases will soon be identified by badges worn on white cover-all uniforms. Circular badge is bordered in blue carrying "USAF Disaster Response Force" in red. They are expected to be available early next year.

DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY realigned its headquarters staff into three major functional offices: Office of DCA Plans and Policy, Office of DCA Program Implementation, and Office of DCA Operations. DCA Director Army Lt. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird also announced that the functions of the Office of Deputy Director, Communications Satellite Project Office (CSPO) will be integrated within the directorate. The moves were made "to improve staff direction in planning, engineering, implementation and operation."

SOL M. LINOWITZ has succeeded Ellsworth Bunker as U. S. representative to the OAS. He ranks as an ambassador and is also the U. S. representative to the Inter-American Committee of the Alliance for Progress (CIAP). Ambassador Bunker has become a roving ambassador. In another ambassadorial change, Robert G. Neumann was sworn in as U. S. Ambassador to Afghanistan last week. He succeeds Ambassador John M. Steeves, now Director General of the Foreign Service.

MARINE CORPS RESERVE story, a 300-page hardcover book dealing with a half-century of Marine Reserves in text and pictures, is on sale at $3.50 a copy through Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Book also can be bought through Marine Corps Gazette and Leatherneck bookstores.

A SPECIALLY MODIFIED C-130 assault aircraft transports U. S. Strike Command's newest flying command post. The transporter-mounted command post has capability for airborne or ground-based operations. System's four units include a communications center, power generators and air conditioners.

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Background for Commanders

Four Fundamental Facts of U. S. Foreign Policy*

The peace and security of many nations are threatened if aggressors are permitted to succeed in a strategic area of the world, if vital treaties are broken, and if men and arms are moved illegally across international boundaries to conquer small nations.

First

Europe knows peace today because free men stood firm in Greece and in Berlin. Perhaps it reflects poorly on our world that men must fight limited wars to keep from fighting larger wars, but that is the condition of the world; we cannot wish it away.

We have peace in Latin America today because the people of the Hemisphere worked together in a common difficulty during the Cuban missile crisis and again in the Dominican Republic.

In Asia, too, brave men have been willing to face danger and to turn back aggression—in Korea, and now in Vietnam.

Free nations may not always share the same commitments. We may have differing viewpoints and differing interests. But we are not alone in understanding that vigilance and courage and cooperation are the price of freedom and the pillars of a safe world order in which men can improve the quality of their lives without fear of violence.

That is why 15 members of NATO work together to preserve what we have built with such long and patient labor. In time, it may be that reduced Soviet forces in East Germany or new military technology will permit some of our forces committed to European defense to be transferred. But this is a decision all of us in NATO must arrive at together. We shall not carelessly weaken the proven instrument of security for the 500 million people in the Atlantic world.

All of our efforts, however distant in geography and different in degree, grow out of our obligations to help keep the peace and to preserve order in the world.

But to stop aggression is the beginning, not the end of our policy.

Second

People have other enemies—hunger, disease, ignorance, and poverty—which must be met with equal courage and equal persistence.

Here in the Western Hemisphere, we are working with well-laid plans for achieving a better life for all. This year—for the third year in a row—our Latin American neighbors are meeting the over-all goals of the Alliance for Progress.

Not long ago, I met with representatives of the new Organization of African Unity. We promised to work with them in efforts to speed up their continent's economic and social development.

In Asia, free nations have made remarkable gains. South Korea has moved ahead with an 8% increase of its gross national product each year. Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore are all moving ahead—toward facing the tough problems of development. And, despite the war, so is Vietnam.

Third

The people of other nations want to play a bigger part in shaping their own destiny.

Just after World War II, there were only two effective world powers. Now, a world of many nation-states, large and small, is taking shape. They do not intend to be anyone's satellites.

In the modern world, nations must group together to be effective. That is why we give our active support to those in Europe who continue to build unity, those in Latin America working toward economic integration, those in Africa building a new framework of regional organization, and those in Asia trying to create a new spirit of regional understanding and enterprise.

Our purpose in promoting regional partnerships is not without self-interest. For as they grow in strength inside a strong United Nations, we can look forward to a gradual decline in the burden that the United States has had to bear through the past generation. And we can look forward to increased growth and stability in each corner of the world.

Fourth

We must prepare for the task of reconciliation which leads to lasting peace.

In Europe, our partnership has been the foundation for building bridges to the East. We and our friends in Western Europe are ready to move just as fast, and just as far, as the East is prepared to go in building those bridges.

We look to the day when those on the mainland of China are ready to meet us half way—ready to devote their enormous talents and energy to improving the life of their people—ready to take their place peacefully as one of the major powers of Asia and the world.

Day by day, quiet victories are being won on every continent. Deep forces for real peace are at work, slowly—almost imperceptibly—creating the conditions and institutions of enduring hope.

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* *Excerpts from remarks of President Johnson at Lancaster, Ohio.*

15,000 Patients Flown to States

The Military Airlift Command has returned more than 15,000 patients from the Pacific area so far this year, Col. Herbert H. Kerr, director of medical materiel at the Defense Personnel Support Center in Philadelphia, told delegates attending a meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons.

He noted that aeromedical evacuation of wounded servicemen from Vietnam has resulted in the highest medical save rate in combat history.

Statistically, Col. Kerr explained that of wounded servicemen who get substantial medical attention—more than battlefield first aid—only about 1 percent die.

The same type casualty in the Korean War was more than double the rate in Vietnam. In World War II the rate was about 4.5 percent and about 8 percent in World War I.

A wounded American in Vietnam who reaches "definitive medical aid will survive 99 times out of 100," the colonel said.

Airmen in War Zone Given Top Rating by Vice Chief

Praising Air Force men in Southeast Asia for their efforts and achievements, Gen. Bruce K. Holloway expressed his over-all views of Air Force operations in Vietnam to Lt. Gen. William W. Momyer, Seventh Air Force commander in Vietnam.

The Air Force vice chief of staff had returned from a tour of Southeast Asia installations, including Vietnam, where he said, "I have never seen morale higher or training better."

In a message he told Gen. Momyer, "Those I talked with knew why they were there and were proud of the part they play as members of the air-ground team. Discussions I had with U.S. Army and Vietnamese Army commanders at every level indicated they too understood fully the great contribution air power is making to the success of joint efforts there."

TRANSFERS—Vice Adm. Vernon L. Lowrance, USN, who commanded Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force, was relieved Saturday by Vice Adm. Arnold F. Schade, USN (above). Adm. Lowrance becomes deputy director of Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington. Adm. Schade was previously Assistant CNO for Plans and Policy.

Heroism in Vietnam Earns Medal of Honor for Four

The White House announced award of the Medal of Honor to four Army men for conspicuous gallantry in Vietnam.

Two of the MOH awards were posthumous. They were to SP/4 Daniel Fernandez of Los Lunas, N. Mex., and 2nd Lt. Robert J. Hibbs of Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The other two award winners are currently serving stateside. They are: SP/5 Lawrence Joel of Fayetteville, N.C., assigned to the 82nd Airborne Div. at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and 2nd Lt. Walter J. Marm Jr. of Washington, Pa., assigned to the Ranger Dept. at the Ft. Benning, Ga., Infantry School.

The Nov. 16 White House announcement said the presentation ceremony will be conducted at a later date "at which time the official citations will be made known."

The announcement brings the total of Medal of Honor awards for the Vietnam conflict to nine. Three of the previous five were posthumous.

Army to Increase ROTC Scholarships

Army will double its four-year ROTC scholarships during 1967 and will increase two-year college scholarships by at least 256.

Outstanding high school graduates during the 1967-68 school year will compete for 800 four-year scholarships. During 1965 and 1966 four-year scholarships totalled 400.

Similarly, two-year scholarships for students already in college have been increased. At least 856 two-year awards will be available during 1967-68. This program is usually set at 600 a year.

Both scholarship programs are designed to give financial assistance to students interested in obtaining a regular officer commission through the Army ROTC program.

Scholarships foot bills for tuition, textbooks and lab fees, plus $50 subsistence allowance each month during the school year. Students receive $151.95 monthly when attending the six-week annual ROTC encampment.

Dry Dock Facilities Modernized by Navy

Navy is modernizing its dry dock facilities at Charleston Naval Shipyard, S.C., to support ships of the Atlantic Fleet and provide additional dry docking capability to handle the increasing number of deep draft nuclear submarines.

The dock also will facilitate modern destroyers equipped with sonar domes.

Charleston Naval Shipyard has only two dry docks with these capabilities. Modernization is scheduled for completion in September 1968.

The dry dock will be lengthened from 509 to 596 feet and deepened from approximately 25 feet to 37 feet. It will be provided with a sonar dome pit 85 feet long by 30 feet wide by 3 feet deep.

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